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ANNUAL REPORT

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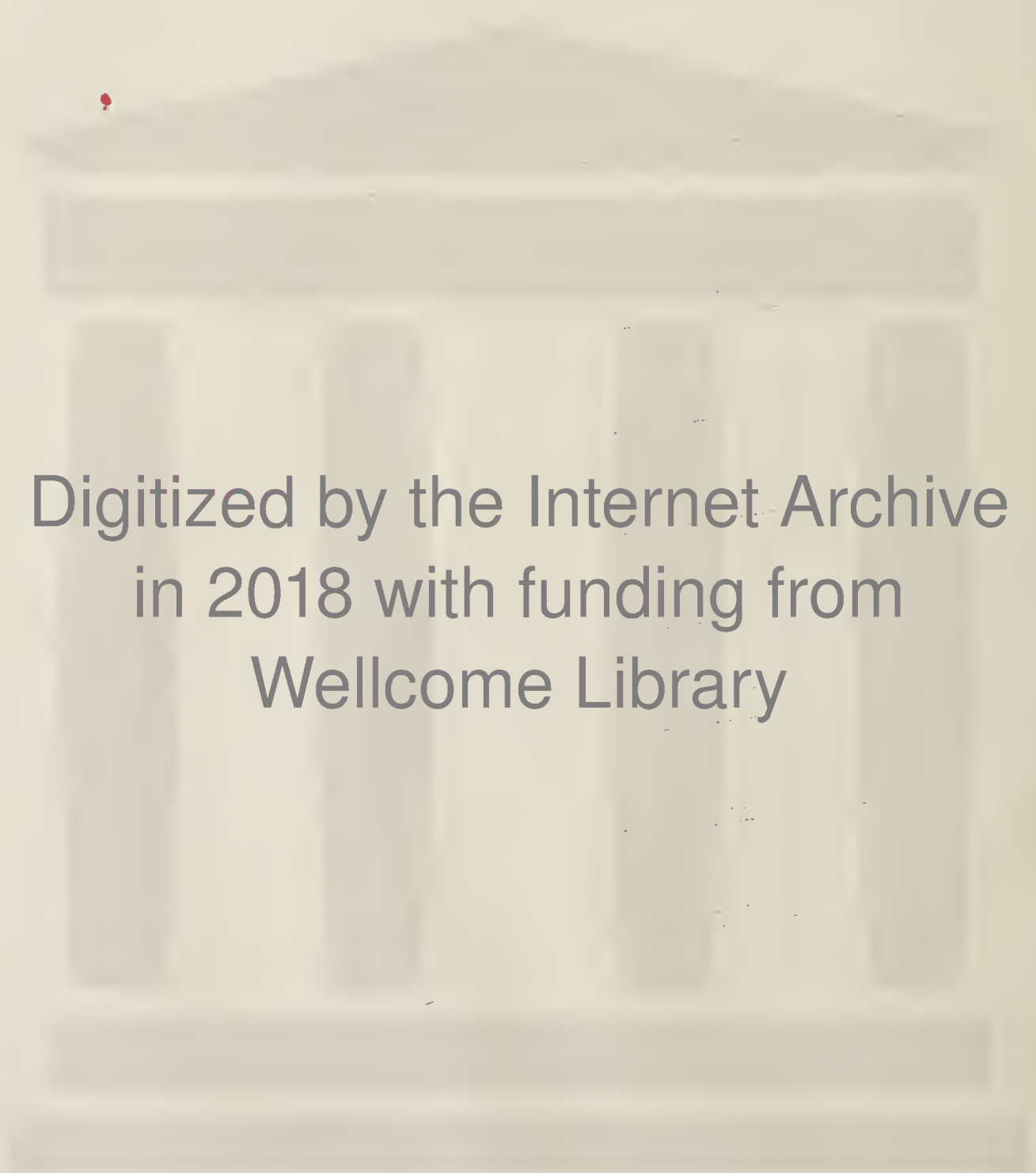
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR,

1939.



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stafford Rural District Council.

7, St. Mary's Grove,
Stafford.
October, 1940.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The necessity for economy in paper etc. accounts for the typewritten and abbreviated form of the Annual Report for the year 1939 of the Medical Officer of Health, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Stafford Rural District Council. The Minister of Health considers that the discontinuance of Annual Reports during the period of the War would not be in the interests of Local Government, but that a material shortening of the reports during that period might be without disadvantage. This report has, therefore, as in former years, been prepared in compliance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

The work of the Public Health Department of the Council during the latter part of 1939 did not follow, to a large extent, the usual routine lines, the energies of the various officers of the Council being directed to dealing with new regulations, situations etc. created by the outbreak of War.

The health of the population is, of course, of paramount importance in War as in Peace. The essential matters in connection with the health of the people in the area have had constant consideration.

In the preparation of this short report I am indebted to Mr. J. W. Cook, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr. R. Langmaid, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, for their valuable assistance.

During 1939 the Public Health Officers of the Stafford Rural District Council were:

Alexander Thomson, Esq., M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.),
Medical Officer of Health.
J. W. Cook, Esq., M.R.S.I., Certified Meat Inspector,
etc., Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Richard Langmaid, Esq., A.R.S.I., Certified Meat
Inspector, etc., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the
Stafford Rural Area.

Area	...	...	...	79,308 Acres.
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)				13,430.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1939) according to Rate Books				3,943.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£50,552.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate				£198.

Agriculture and Dairy Farming constitute the chief industries of the Stafford Rural Area. Many of the residents in the Rural Area find employment in the County Town of Stafford in Engineering and Shoe-Making Industries.

Unemployment in the Area is not a serious problem.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1939.

(Relating to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General).

	M.	F.	Total	
Live Births:				
Legitimate	91	104	195	
Illegitimate	5	3	8	
	-----	-----	-----	
Totals	96	107	203	
	-----	-----	-----	
Stillbirths:				
Legitimate	10	2	12	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths (all causes)	79	88	167	
				Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population ... 15.1
				Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population - 12.4
Deaths from puerperal causes:-				
		Deaths.		Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 4.7
Puerperal Sepsis		1		
Other Puerperal causes		Nil		

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age:-

Deaths.		Total	M.	F.
M.	F.			
7	4		6	4
		Legitimate	6	4
		Illegitimate	1	Nil
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	54.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	51.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	125.0

	Male	Female	Total
Number of Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9	18	27
Number of Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	1	1
Number of Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	1	1

The table appended shews the comparative Death Rates in the Rural Area for the previous five years:-

Death Rates per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.

1934	...	...	...	11.4
1935	...	...	...	12.6
1936	...	...	...	13.6
1937	...	...	...	12.5
1938	...	...	...	11.4
1939	...	...	...	12.4

STATEMENT OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR
1939 IN CONNECTION WITH PATIENTS RESIDENT IN STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT
AND WATER SUPPLIES IN THAT AREA.

Swabs for Diphtheria	108 (comprising 187 examinations) (5 positive)
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	28
Grouping of Haemolytic Streptococci	4
Swabs for organisms of Vincent's angina	5
Swabs for other organisms	16
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	23 (1 positive)
General examination of urine	11
Biological tests for Tubercle Bacilli	
Urine	1
Faeces	1
Sputum	1
Pus from antrum	1
Faeces for ova	1
Faeces for Tubercle Bacilli	2
Faeces for members of the Typhoid-paratyphoid, Dysentery or Salmonella groups.	5
Sputa - culture for organisms	2
Cerebrospinal fluid - bacteriological, cytological and chemical examination.	1
Examination of drinking waters	42
Blood for Paul Bunnell test	4
Blood for agglutination tests	9 (each comprising 29 tests i.e. the blood is tested against 29 organisms of the Typhoid-paratyphoid, Dysentery, Salmonella and Brucella groups).

N.B. One patient's blood gave positive agglutination tests for *Brucella abortus* in dilutions up to 1 in 12,500.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during 1939.

DISEASE	Total Number of Cases Notified.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	35	Nil
Diphtheria	10	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever and others	5	1
Whooping Cough	30	Nil
Pneumonia	14	2
Measles	66	1
Erysipelas	2	Nil

Incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria in 1939 and
during former years.
SCARLET FEVER

Year	Total number of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of Population	Total Deaths.
1939	35	2.6	Nil
1938	66	4.96	Nil
1937	47	3.5	Nil
1936	32	2.4	Nil
1935	32	2.4	Nil

DIPHTHERIA

Year	Total number of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of Population	Total Deaths.
1939	10	.7	Nil
1938	12	.9	Nil
1937	4	.30	1
1936	9	.63	1
1935	7	.53	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases (not including cases transferred from other areas).				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
1 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	4	2	-	2	3	1	1	1

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case notes for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1939

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
Live Births	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3	Deaths under 1 year of age	50	53	48
Still Births	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	8.2
Deaths:-					Maternal Mortality:-			
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9	Puerperal Sepsis	0.77		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Others	2.16		
Small-pox	-	-	-	-	Total	2.93		
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00				
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03				
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02				
Influenza	0.11	0.19	0.20	0.18				
Notifications:-								
Small-pox	0.00	-	-	-				
Scarlet Fever	1.80	1.56	1.78	1.53	Maternal Mortality:-			
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98	Puerperal Sepsis	0.74		
Enteric	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	Others	2.08		
Erysipelae	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37	Total	2.82		
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99	Notifications:-			
					Puerperal Fever	14.35	17.26	12.99
					" Pyrexia)			3.31
								11.22

Statistics taken from the Tuberculosis Register
(31st December, 1940). 1939.

Number of Cases on Register

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Total
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
34	17	51	8	19	27	78

Causes of Death.

	Male.	Female.
Other Liver Diseases	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	-
Puerperal Sepsis	-	1
Congenital Causes:		
Debility, Prematurity etc.	3	3
Senility	8	7
Suicide	1	-
Other violence	7	4
Other defined Diseases	10	11
Diabetes	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	1	5
Heart Diseases	21	15
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	8
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1
Measles	-	1
Influenza	2	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	1
Cancer	9	18
	—	—
	Totals	79
		88
	—	—

During 1939 the following cases of Infectious Diseases were removed to the Stafford Isolation Hospital from the Stafford Rural Area:

Scarlet Fever	17
Diphtheria	10
Measles	2

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Cheslyn Hay owing to a temporary lack of accommodation in the Stafford Hospital.

During 1939, 172 children (entrants), attending schools in Stafford Rural District Area, were immunised against Diphtheria. A circular explaining the deadly menace of Diphtheria and the protection which immunisation granted to the child was sent to the home of each child newly attending school. 74 per cent of the parents to whom Immunisation for children was offered availed themselves of the facilities offered.

The Schick Test was performed on 243 children who had been immunised in 1938. This Test reveals whether the immunising doses have or have not protected the child against Diphtheria. Of those 243 Children, 239 were found to be Schick Negative i.e. given protection against Diphtheria, 4 were found to be Schick Positive.

These 4 children received further immunising doses during 1940. A few children under 5 were immunised in the Welfare Centre in the Area.

The material used in the above work was Burroughs-Wellcome T.A.F. (3 immunising doses of 10.C.I. at intervals of 14 days to each child) and Burroughs-Wellcome School-Testing Material.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Western Area.

A Borehole has been sunk at the Hollies, Gnosall, to a depth of 603 feet and during 14 days Test Pumping yielded an average of 21,000 gallons of water per hour.

The water has been examined Chemically and Bacteriologically, and found to be of excellent quality.

A Second Borehole is now being sunk some 14 feet from the first Borehole.

The Parishes to be supplied from this source will be:-

Adbaston, Bradley, Church Eaton, Ellenhall,
Forton, Gnosall, Haughton, High Offley and
Ranton.

Eastern Area.

The Council has entered into an agreement with the Stafford Borough Council whereby Water from their Reservoir at Milford will be supplied in bulk to the Parishes of Fradswell (delayed), Gayton, Stowe and Weston.

The Rural Council are providing and laying their own Water Main.

Samples of this water are taken periodically by the Staffordshire County Council and is found to be of satisfactory quality, Chemically and Bacteriologically.

The Parishes with a piped supply laid and maintained by the Stafford Borough Council are: Berkswich, Brocton, Castle Church, Creswell, part of Hopton, part of Seighford and Tixall.

Some 280 houses at Gnosall are supplied by water gravitating from a Spring at Audmore.

At Marston and Whitgreave, tap water is provided to some 50 Small Holdings, the supply being obtained from the Staffordshire County Council's Pumping Station at Yarlet Bank.

Enson Farms and Cottages are supplied by gravitation from a Spring on the Harrowby Estate.

Salt, Ingestre and Hopton, obtain supplies from Springs at Weston Bank, and Salt Bank on the Shrewsbury Estate.

The Parish of Forton is supplied with Tap Water from the Newport Urban District Council's Pumping Station and also from the Aqualate Estate Company's Spring. The water is of good quality.

The remaining parts of the Stafford Rural District are dependent upon Wells, and Springs for their water supplies.

Periodical samples of water are taken from such sources, and submitted to Bacteriological and Chemical examination.

The potential danger to health and life of water from such sources is very real, the primitive sewage-disposal methods available making sewage contamination of existing water supplies a grave menace.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Medical Officer would again remind the Council that proper Sewerage facilities have not yet been provided for the Parishes of Brocton, Milford and Walton.

The Council recognises this is a problem calling for urgent solution, and the Consulting Engineers of the Council are now busy preparing a suitable and adequate scheme.

The unsatisfactory system of Sewerage in these Parishes has been the subject of many complaints.

The problem is receiving the earnest attention of the Council.

These Areas have grown considerably and are now destined to grow even more in the near future.

The present Sewerage system is totally inadequate, and the Council realize the urgency of the problem.

The drainage generally is to Tanks and Cesspits with soakaways, and there are complaints where the land is hard-packed and where the soil is clay.

It is a great pity that the growth of a modern Housing Estate and the provision of proper and adequate sewage-disposal facilities did not progress together.

Closest Accommodation.

During 1939, 5 conversions from Privies to Pan Closets were made. The approximate figures now are:-

Water Closets	...	2,601
Pan Closets	...	1,115
Privies	...	559

Public Cleansing.

The Council has undertaken the removal of House Refuse by Contract from the following Parishes:-

Berkswich, Brocton, Castle Church, Creswell, Colwich, Gnosall and Seighford, also 13 houses within the Parish of Hopton, some 1843 houses.

In the under-mentioned Parishes Ashtips are provided:-
Church Eaton, Houghton, Hopton, Stowe,
Tixall and Weston.

During 1939, many complaints were received from ratepayers in certain of the Parishes with regard to Refuse Collection. The unusually severe weather at the end of 1939 made the Contractors jobs very difficult re transport, etc. The Council has, on several occasions during the year, discussed the possibility of purchasing suitable vehicles with which to carry out Refuse Collections under the direct control of the Council.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Tabular Statement furnished by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	1,840
Houses reconditioned	...	...	...	21
Houses repaired	...	...	...	26
Houses demolished	...	...	...	4
Houses closed	...	...	...	3
Drainage defects visits	...	...	...	52
New Drainage ^{HOUSES} built	...	...	...	40
Drainage ^{HOUSES} finished under the Housing Financial Provisions Act 1938				15
Shops Inspected	...	...	...	23
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	...	16
Public Houses Inspected	...	...	...	14
Dairy Farms Inspected	...	...	...	794

New Cowsheds Provided	...	16
New Dairies Provided	...	64
New Cowshed Floors	...	33
Additional Windows 58 Cowsheds	...	58
Cowsheds reconditioned	...	5
New Upright Boilers provided	...	7
New Steam Sterilizers provided	...	8
Slaughterhouses Inspected	...	210
Knackers Yard Inspected	...	90
Carcases of Beef found to be sound		348
Carcases of Beef found to be Tubercular		167
Carcases of Beef discoloured by		
Parturition		7
Carcases of Beef sticky and unsaleable		10
Carcases of Beef badly bruised	...	33
Carcases of Beef Emaciated	...	11
Carcases of Beef Dropsical	...	7
Carcases of Calves Sound	...	12
Carcases of Sheep Sound	...	78
Carcases of Calves Condemned	...	7
Carcases of Sheep Condemned	...	4
Carcases of Pigs Sound	...	78
	Total	762

Shops and Offices - Shops Acts 1912-1934.

A register of the various Shops, Catering Establishments, etc., has been made. Details re numbers etc. are shown in the following table:-

<u>Type of Establishment</u>	<u>No. in Area.</u>	<u>No. of Assistants Employed.</u>
Bakehouses	6	6
Public Houses	47	14
Post Offices	30	9
General Provision Stores	42	10
Butchers Shops	8	5
Drapers Shops	3	Nil
Confectioners Shops	5	Nil
Fish & Chip Shops	2	Nil
Boot Repairing Shops	6	Nil
Motor Accessory Shops	9	3
Cooked Meat Shops	1	Nil
Catering Establishments	4	4
	-----	-----
	163	51
	-----	-----

Camping Sites.

No Licences were issued by the Council in 1939 for Camping Sites.

Smoke Abatement.

The three Factory Chimneys at Colwich, Knighton, and Weston gave no trouble during 1939.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none in the Rural District.

Schools.

The Sanitary Condition of Schools is fairly good, without the provision of Water Closets with drainage to Sewers.

The following table gives the names of the various schools, and the sources of their Water Supplies. ...

<u>School.</u>	<u>Source of Water Supply.</u>
Adbaston	Water conveyed to School
Berkswich	Tap Water
Bradley	Well Water
Colwich	Tap Water
Church Eaton	Well Water
Forton	Tap Water
Gayton	Well Water
Great Haywood (2)	Tap Water
Gnosall (2)	Tap and Well Water
High Offley	Well Water
Hixon	Well Water
Haughton	Well Water
Hyde Lea	Tap Water
Harston	Tap Water from County Council
Norbury	Tap Water
Stowe	Well Water
Weston	Well Water
Ranton	Well Water

Samples of Water taken from many of these schools have proved to be very unsatisfactory when submitted to Bacteriological and Chemical Examination. Alternative supplies have been reviewed, but the solution of the difficulty would appear to await the coming of the Council's New Western and Eastern Water Supplies.

Housing.

1.- Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	1840
(b) Number of inspections made for purpose (a)	2100
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under 1 (a) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b) Number of inspections for purpose 2 (a)	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	282

2.- Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.	54
--	----

3.- Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	120
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	68
(b) By Local Authority	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-
- (a) By Owners ... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 15, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made ... 4
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 4

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:-

- (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... 4
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 4
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 43
- (b) Number of New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 1
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 1
- (2) Number of persons concerned in each case ... 8
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

The Council is fully cognisant of the Housing needs in the Area. The onsets of War has led to the postponment of several projected Building Schemes.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

Total number of Dairy Farms in the district, 692. Total number of Cowsheds 1,662. Some 16 new cowsheds were erected and 64 Dairies.

The sampling of milk for bacterial content and for Tubercle Bacilli is undertaken by the Staffordshire County Council.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There are seven licensed, and one registered slaughter houses in the Rural District.

Two hundred and ten inspections of the slaughter houses were made during 1939, and 762 carcasses inspected. Also 90 inspections of the Knackers Yard.

The 6 butchers shops are regularly inspected, also the travelling vans carrying meat and provisions for sale.

Inspections of premises where food is stored are also carried out.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and Inspected	100	483	19	82	78
<u>All diseases except tuber- culosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	68	7	4	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	25	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	Nil	19½%	36	5	1.02%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	167	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	33	Nil	4	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	34.5%	Nil	Nil	Nil

There is no Meat Marketing Scheme in force in the Stafford Rural District under Part III of the Public Health (meat) Regulations, 1924.

The 56 small shops are regularly inspected, and the provisions of the Shops Acts have been explained to each shopkeeper.

(c) Adulterations. Action is undertaken by the Staffordshire County Council.

(d) The Staffordshire County Council undertakes the chemical and bacteriological examination of food.

Report Under Section 128 of the Factories
Act, 1937.

Inspections.

For the purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
<u>Factories</u>			
With mechanical power	10	Nil	Nil
<u>Factories</u>			
Without mechanical power	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworker's premises	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of Defects.

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecution Instituted
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

There are three First-Aid Parties in the Area. It has been a matter of difficulty to find suitable personnel for these Parties, the majority of men suitable for this work being engaged in other branches of the A.R.P. Service. In the Area there are twenty First-Aid Points - a First-Aid Point being defined in simple terms as a box of First-Aid requisites kept at the house of a doctor, Nurse or a person holding a qualification in First-Aid. At the Head Wardens' Posts there are suitable boxes of First-Aid Materials.

Several classes in First-Aid, etc. have been held in various parts of the Area during the year. These classes have been well attended, and there is now a goodly number of men and women in the various parishes able to administer First-Aid if casualties unfortunately occurred in the Area.

The various official circulars, etc. in connection with A.R.P. work involve time-consuming labour in dealing with the many scattered Parishes. The Council has, on many occasions, expressed its gratification at the amount of work done by the many Voluntary Workers in the Rural District; special mention in this connection might be made of the Chief Warden and of the Divisional Wardens.

The Medical Officer of Health has been much impressed by the theoretical knowledge and practical skill of many members of First-Aid Classes which he has examined in connection with the granting of Certificates.

The Medical Officer would wish to pay tribute to the Clerk who, as Air Raid Precautions Co-ordinating Officer has been most helpful.

COMMENTS.

Model Bye-laws have not yet been adopted by the Stafford Rural District Council.

During the year samples of water taken from Wells, etc. in the Area have, in the majority of cases, proved unsatisfactory, evidence of sewage contamination of those waters being apparent. The need for the provision of good wholesome water supplies is great. The Eastern and Western Water Schemes would satisfy that need to a large extent.

The various Housing Schemes of the Council, which would have met a long-felt want, have necessarily been temporarily put aside.

The number of Infectious Diseases in the District during 1939 has not been excessive. In NO case has milk acted as the vehicle of infection.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors would take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and Plans Committee for their courtesy and help during 1939.

ALEXANDER THOMSON;

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.).

Medical Officer of Health.

J. W. COOK, M.R.S.I., etc.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

